

House Resolution 1833

By: Representatives Powell of the 29th and Smith of the 113th

A RESOLUTION

1 Creating the Joint Study Committee on the Efficiency, Effectiveness, and Independence of
2 the University System of Georgia, an interim study committee; and for other purposes.

3 WHEREAS, the Reorganization Act of 1931 simplified state government and called for the
4 creation of the board of regents to oversee the University System of Georgia; and

5 WHEREAS, the board of regents was organized for the purpose of protecting the university
6 system from political interference; and

7 WHEREAS, the board consists of 18 members, each of whom is appointed by the Governor
8 to serve seven-year terms; and

9 WHEREAS, one member is appointed from each congressional district, in addition to five
10 members who are appointed from the state at large; and

11 WHEREAS, the chancellor is elected by the board as its chief executive; and

12 WHEREAS, in the 70 years since the formation of the board of regents, the University
13 System of Georgia has grown to 35 institutions, as well as the Georgia Public Library
14 System; and

15 WHEREAS, the system's Fiscal Year 2006 budget is \$1.8 billion; and

16 WHEREAS, the system has over 250,000 enrolled students and more than 38,000 faculty and
17 staff members; and

1 WHEREAS, the policy direction on admissions aims for high academic standards and seeks
2 to further the welfare of its students and accommodate nontraditional learners, while creating
3 a partnership with elementary and secondary schools; and

4 WHEREAS, the mission statement of the system states that it strives to contribute to the
5 educational, cultural, economic, and social advancement of Georgia by providing excellent
6 undergraduate general education; and

7 WHEREAS, there have been requests for more diversity in the membership of the board; and

8 WHEREAS, the possible influence of outside forces in the selection of the chancellor has
9 raised questions regarding the independence of the board of regents.

10 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF
11 GEORGIA that there is created an interim study committee to be called the Joint Study
12 Committee on the Efficiency, Effectiveness, and Independence of the University System of
13 Georgia. The committee is to be composed of five members of the House of Representatives
14 to be appointed by the Speaker of the House of Representatives and five members of the
15 Senate to be appointed by the Senate Committee on Assignments. The Speaker of the House
16 of Representatives shall designate a member of the House and the Senate Committee on
17 Assignments shall designate a member of the Senate who shall serve as cochairpersons of
18 the committee. The committee shall meet at the call of the cochairpersons.

19 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the committee shall undertake a study of the issues
20 mentioned above and any other issues related thereto and recommend any actions or
21 legislation which the committee deems necessary or appropriate. The committee may
22 conduct such meetings at such places and at such times as it may deem necessary or
23 convenient to enable it to exercise fully and effectively its powers, perform its duties, and
24 accomplish the objectives and purposes of this resolution. The members of the committee
25 shall receive the allowances authorized for legislative members of interim legislative
26 committees but shall receive the same for not more than ten days unless additional days are
27 authorized. The funds necessary to carry out the provisions of this resolution shall come
28 from the funds appropriated to the House of Representatives and Senate. The committee
29 shall make a report of its findings and recommendations to the General Assembly with
30 suggestions for proposed legislation, if any, no later than December 31, 2006. The
31 committee shall stand abolished on December 31, 2006.